



MINUTES

Committee on General Services

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 @ 3:30 p.m.

City Council Conference Room, City Hall 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Tina Houghton, Chair

Councilmember Jody Washington, Vice Chair-excused

Councilmember Carol Wood, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Scott Sanford, Code Compliance

Chris Swope, City Clerk

Mansour Ahmadpour

Jenn Tafel

Kathie Kuhn

Willow Hassel

Aaron Kabodian

Mike McCurdy

Joe Abood, Chief Deputy City Attorney

Mike, licensed contractor for 731 Genesee

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No Public Comment at this time.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #1342; Rivendell Corp.; 731 W Genesee Street

The Committee and Council staff researched property owner verification before the residents spoke on their complaint. It was confirmed that Ms. Kuhn could speak on behalf of the owners.

Mr. Sanford informed the Committee the property was cited on trash on June 30, 2016 with a compliance date of July 7, 2016. The tenant did contact the department for an extension and were granted one week. On July 16, 2016, the violations were still present, not removed but covered up. There was also a notice of wood burning heating which is not allowed and no rental registration. That was clarified and the property was granted compliance as a legal non-conforming use.

Ms. Kuhn stated she was not at the property during the time of the issues, however after review of the pictures and speaking to a contractor the fees seemed excessive.

A licensed contractor who came with the residents and was a former resident at the property, confirmed he went to the property after the notice was sent, and spoke in opposition to the invoice of the City contractor stating they took away 55 yards. He asked the Committee check into the City contractor for excessive charging, including the \$150 an hour for unskilled labor.

Mr. Sanford outlined the process of the contractor which is done through a bid process. The contract includes 2 workers, a truck, bonding and a minimum of 3 cubic yards. Any wood needs to be chipped before it is taken to the land fill, which requires further labor time.

Ms. Kuhn asked for records from the contractor on the size of the dumpsters and weight of the trash dumped. Mr. Sanford stated that they just provide a bill, and are only required to provide photos of what they take.

Ms. Hassel asked the Committee to consider that the residents currently living in the property were not the ones that caused the violation but are now responsible for it. Ms. Kuhn asked who had filed the violation and Mr. Sanford stated it was notice by a code officer. Ms. Kuhn asked the Committee to consider not holding them liable for an amount of trash that they believed was not present but was an inflated cost by the contractor.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO DENY THE CLAIM APPEAL #1342; 731 W. GENESSEE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

The claimants asked what recourse they have. Council advised them it would be at the April 10th Council meeting, and Mr. Abood confirmed if it is denied at Council they can appeal it at circuit court. Council Member Wood added that the claimants could pursue with the previous tenants for their violations.

The contractor attending with the claimants spoke in opposition to the motion stating his opinion was that the City contractor over charged and the Committee should speak to the contractor and ask for more information.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #1366; Ahmadoour Mansourl 1034 Greenwood Avenue

Mr. Sanford informed the Committee the violation was cited on September 26, 2016 with a compliance date of October 3, 2016, and when the inspector re-inspected on October 4, 2016 the violations were still present and the contractor arrived on October 25, 2016. The violations were gone in the front yard but they addressed the brush in the back yard and other violations on site.

Mr. Ahmadapour acknowledged he had gotten the violation notice and went to the property to pick up the site. He also admitted when he saw the back yard he too was surprised. Mr.

Ahmadapour gave history on the tenant and admitted he should evict the tenant but could not because he felt for her as a single mom of 4 children and did not want to put her out.

Council Member Houghton clarified to the claimant that the City has incurred costs on behalf of the tenant and the landlord needs to maintain his property.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO DENY THE RESOLUTION FOR THE CLAIM APPEAL #1366 FOR 1034 GREENWOOD AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Set a Public Hearing; Noise Waiver Notice Requirement Ordinance Amendment

Mr. Swope asked the Committee to review the proposed ordinance which changes the notice requirements for Noise Waivers, noting that this type of notice is the only notice requiring 30 days. The amendments requested by Mr. Swope were to change the notice to 12 days. Council Member Wood asked that the other Committee members consider also 500' mailing area not the current 300'. Council Member Houghton asked if this would be consistent with the surrounding townships, but Mr. Swope was not aware of those requirements.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO AMEND THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO STATE 500 FEET ON PAGE TWO (2) LINE 1, AND AMEND IT TO STATE 12 DAYS ON PAGE TWO (2) LINE 2. MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION – Council Rules

Council Member Houghton asked the Committee to review the rules and begin the discussion at the next meeting.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Abood about the decorum at a Council meeting during public hearing if the claimants attend and state "fraud". Mr. Abood stated the public can speak to anything as long as not defamatory.

Committee discussed the process of the City's contractor, Eric's Refuse, and asked Council staff to invite them to the next meeting.

Other/Place on File

Council Member Houghton placed the following on file:

Notice from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission regarding:

- New SDM License, Sunday Sales Permit (AM) and Gas Pumps for Speedway, LLC, 6736 South Cedar Street
- New SDM License, Sunday Sales Permit (AM) and Gas Pumps for Speedway, LLC, 6041 South Pennsylvania
- Transfer Stock Interest in 2016 Licensing Year; Capitol Beverage Company, Inc., 5400 Aurelius Road, 5500 Lansing Michigan 48911
- New SDM License, Sunday Sales Permit (AM), and Gas Pumps for Speedway LLC; 3625 South Cedar Street

Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak, Office Manager,
Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on April 27, 2017